GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:284
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2016
Great Indian Bustard
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Kachhadia Shri Naranbhai

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any action plan to save the 'Great Indian Bustard', a magnificent bird of grasslands which is very close to extinction in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether it is a fact that a total of 200 Great Indian Bustards are left in India and out of these 48 are in Gujarat and if so, the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the State Government of Gujarat has forwarded any plan that includes establishment of a National Level Conservation and Breeding Centre for Great Indian Bustard in Kachhua District; and
(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to sanction a total of Rs.187.13 crore for the estimated project cost for a period of 10 years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a)The Ministry has prepared an Action Plan for Recovery of Resident Bustards' for the conservation of Bustards including Great Indian Bustard in the country. This species has also been identified as one of the species under the component 'Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and their habitats' of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats'. Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for protection of Great Indian Bustard habitats under the said Scheme. In the year 2015-16, central assistance of Rs.65.36 lakhs to State of Rajasthan, an amount of Rs. 11.79 lakhs to Kutchh Bustard Sanctuary and Rs. 2.48 lakhs to Gaga Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary of Gujarat and Rs.110.63 lakhs to Maharashtra were provided for conservation of Great Indian Bustard(GIB).

Recently the Ministry has sanctioned a Project under central CAMPA for conservation breeding of Great Indian Bustard for augmenting wild population with an allocation of Rs.33.85 Cr. for five years. An amount of Rs.9.95 crores has been released to Wildlife Institute of India during 2015-16. This programme will be implemented by Wildlife Institute of India for the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra to begin with.

(b) Population of Great Indian Bustard is known to have plummeted to less than 300 in the country. As per the last estimation of Great Indian Bustard conducted by Forest Department and Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER) Foundation in 2007, 48 birds were thriving in and around Kachchh Bustard Sanctuary.

The population of this species is declining due to land use change in important bustard habitats which are grasslands.

(c)&(d) Gujarat Forest Department has forwarded Recovery Plan for Great Indian Bustard in Kachchh, Gujarat indicating a cost of Rs. 187.13 crores for a period of 10 years. This Recovery Plan shows the complete activity and cost projection. Annual Plan Operation (APO) seeking financial assistance for implementation of this Plan has not been submitted to this Ministry by the State Government of Gujarat.

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